

In the Claims:

Amend Claims 9 and 16-18.

1. (Currently amended). A connecting element for an assembly system comprising a plurality of system supports, ~~have~~ having openings arranged in a defined spacing on at least one of an outer ~~walls~~ wall (68.1, 68.2) of the system support, wherein said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) comprises a first member (2; 12; 32) and at least one second member (3; 13; 33) with at least one of said first and second members (2; 12; 32.3; 13; 33) having at least one elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15, 34, 35, 66) with elongated parallel sides and with at least a plurality of notches (6, 7) extending continuously in side-by-side relation over the length of said parallel sides of said parallel sides of said at least one elongated opening with elongated parallel side said notches extending transversally of the length of said elongated opening, said notches arranged for securing said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) to a said system support or to a base surface by a fastening element (61), passed through the at least one said elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15, 34, 35; 66), and engageable with complementary notches (69.1, 69.2) of the fastening element (61).

2. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second member (3; 13; 33) is arranged essentially perpendicular to said first member (~~2~~; 2; 12; 32).

3. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second member (33) is a connector (33) formed of a profile section with openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) for fixing the support by said fastening elements passable through said openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) in said connector (33).

4. (Currently amended). A connecting element as set forth in claim 3, wherein said connector (33) comprises a base plate (32), and said base plate has at least one said elongated opening (34, 35) with said notches (37.1, 37.2) located along the length of said at least one elongated opening (34, 35) for engagement with complementary notches of a one said fastening element.

5. (Previously amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein an outer contour of said connector (33) is formed complementary to an inner contour of the support so that said support can slide over said connector (33).

6. (Previously amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein an inner contour of the connector (33) is shaped complementary to an

outer contour of a support so that the support can be inserted into said connector (33).

7. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein said connector (33) has a rectangular configuration and the openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) are arranged parallel to a plane for the passage of a fastening element, with said plane formed through said first member (32) of the connecting element.

8. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 7, wherein a plurality of additional openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1; 52.3) are arranged vertically relative to each other in a plurality of planes parallel to each other.

9. (Withdrawn). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the notches (6, 7; 20, 21; 37.1, 37.2) are arranged on the side of said first and second members facing away from the support.

10. (Previously amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said notches (6, 7; 20, 21; 37.1, 37.2; 70.1, 70.2) comprise teeth.

11. (Withdrawn). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said connecting element (11; 31; 65) has at least one bead (16; 17; 36) extending in the elongated direction of said openings (4, 5, 14, 15, 34, 35).

12. (Withdrawn). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 11, wherein said teeth are arranged in at least one said bead wall of said at least one bead (16, 17, 36).

13. (Previously amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface zone surrounding at least one said elongated opening has said notches (6, 7).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer contour of said at least one member (2, 3) is complementary to the outer contour of at least one of the supports capable of being connected with said connecting element (1; 11; 31).

16. (Withdrawn). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a fastening element (61) for securing a connecting element (65) to a support comprises an elongated screw having a threaded first end segment (64) and an

opposite end rear grip part (63), with complementary notches (69.1;69.2) comprising teeth.

17. (Withdrawn). A connecting element as set forth in claim 16, wherein said fastening element (61) comprises a spring-based pressure mechanism for tensioning said fastening element (61) with said connecting element (65)

18. (Withdrawn). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 2, wherein both said first and second members (2, 3) have at least one said elongated opening (4, 5).

19. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein said second member is formed of a hollow section.

20. (Previously amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said base plate (32) is arranged in the same plane as said first member.

21. (Original) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the pitch of said teeth is 2.5 mm.

22. (New) A connecting element for an assembly system comprising a plurality of system supports having openings arranged in a defined spacing on at least one of a plurality of outer walls of the support, wherein said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) comprises a first member (2; 12; 32) and at least one

second member (3; 13; 33) with at least one of said first and second members 2; 12; 32; 3; 13; 33) having at least one elongated opening (4; 5; 14; 15; 34; 35; 66) with elongated parallel sides and with at least a plurality of notches extending transversely of the length of said elongated opening, said notches arranged for securing said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) to said system support or to a base surface by a fastening element (61) passed through the at least one said elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15; 34, 35; 66) and engageable with complementary notches (69.1; 69.2) of the fastening element (61), said connecting element (11; 35; 65) has at least one bead (16; 17; 36) formed therein and including said at least one elongated opening with said bead having bead walls (18.1, 18.2; 19.1, 19.2) extending in the direction of said elongated opening (14; 15) and said notches comprise teeth arranged in said bead walls (18.1, 18.2; 19.1, 19.2).